

# THE PINK

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## Yoshida's grand plan for Japan

Exclusive interview on P4-5

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## Europa pic special



Best photos from Saints v Midtjylland P18-25

# TEST OF SPIRIT

## Saints will face a tough clash at Hornets

**SAINTS** will face a significant test of character in what is a vital trip to Watford tomorrow, according to James Ward-Prowse.

Ronald Koeman's men need to kick-start their season after gaining just one point from their opening two league matches, while also stuttering in Europe against FC Midtjylland this week.

"The fans will create a good atmosphere and it will be a battle," said Ward-Prowse.

"We'll have to win the battle first before we show what we can do, so I think it will be a test of character - but it's a good game to have in between the two European ties."

Full story on page 3



READY FOR BATTLE: James Ward-Prowse in action.

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# SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

## Watford is a 'vital' match for Saints

Hesitant start to season makes fast recovery key

**JAMES Ward-Prowse believes tomorrow's "vital" trip to Watford will be a real test of character for Saints.**

Ronald Koeman's men visit the newly-promoted side hoping to kick-start their season, after a stuttering start to the campaign, *writes Gordon Simpson.*

Saints have just one point from their opening two league matches, while their progress to the Europa League group stages is in doubt, after Thursday's 1-1 draw at home to Midtjylland in the first leg of the play-off round.

Speaking about the importance of the trip to Vicarage Road, Ward-Prowse said: "I think it's very big."

"We want to win every game, of course we do, and it's made even tougher with the Thursday fixtures as well, but I think we're physically prepared for that. All the lads are doing everything they can to make sure they recover and make sure we're ready to go again. I think it's a vital game for us."

The midfielder added: "I think whether a team's been promoted or whether they've been in the Premier League all the time, every game's difficult. The fans will create a good atmosphere and it will be a battle."

"We'll have to win the battle first before we show what we can do, so I think it will be a test of character – but it's a good game to have in between the two European ties."

Saints opened their league campaign with a 2-2 draw at Newcastle and a 3-0 home defeat to Everton.

While undoubtedly disappointing, it puts them in the same position they were in at this stage last term, when they also had one point from their opening two matches.

Then, a trip to West Ham in their third game energised the campaign, as Saints won 3-1 at Upton Park to set them on their way to a record-breaking Premier League season.

Ward-Prowse believes tomorrow's match has similar potential for the club.

"Definitely," he said. "It's a winnable game. I think [Thursday] was a good start again, since the 3-0 defeat to Everton, and I think, with the run of games we've got, it's good that if you do have a bad result you've got another game around the corner to put the bad one to bed."



James Ward-Prowse believes Saints' visit to Watford tomorrow will be a vital one and a real test of character.



James Ward-Prowse goes close to scoring with a free-kick in Thursday's 1-1 Europa League draw with FC Midtjylland.

"I think it's definitely a winnable game and we'll obviously be looking to get three points."

Once again, it does mean dealing with a quick turnaround from Thursday's game, but, while the im-

pact of the Europa League is so often talked about, Ward-Prowse says no one at the club views it as a drain.

"I know every player and every member of staff wants to play in the Europa League and everyone wants

to be there and show on the European stage what we can do," he said.

"Everyone's determined to play there. It's not a case of not wanting to play there – everyone's wanting to be there."

### JWP still confident

JAMES Ward-Prowse admits it will be a huge shame for Saints if they don't reach the Europa League group stage – but he has backed the team to get past Midtjylland.

The Danish champions secured a surprise 1-1 draw at St Mary's on Thursday, in the first leg of the play-off tie between the clubs.

The contest will now be settled at the MCH Arena, in Herning, next week, with Saints heading there in a somewhat uncomfortable position.

After the team produced a record-breaking Premier League season last term, Ward-Prowse knows it would be a huge disappointment to exit Europe at this early stage.

"That's the thing. The club's geared around European football and the last five years we've been on a long journey to get here and we don't want to fall at the last hurdle," he said.

"Everyone's determined, you can see everyone wants to play in the Europa League, despite what people say about the schedule of the games."

"We're footballers and that's what we live and breathe for, so we want to go as far as we can."

Having conceded an away goal to Midtjylland – scored by St Mary's academy graduate Tim Sparv – Saints will need to score on Thursday night, but Ward-Prowse, who won the penalty from which Jay Rodriguez equalised, remains optimistic they will do that and also get through.

"I think we had 20-odd shots to their nine, which shows that we dominated the game quite well and we had five or six really good chances to finish them off, but it just wasn't to be," he said. "But it should be a good encounter at their place."

"You can see the stats show that we dominated the game. It's going to be a great atmosphere there and it will be a very, very tough place to go, but we're confident with the strike force we've got that we can get goals there."



James Ward-Prowse



Defender wants the game to grow on and off the pitch

# Maya's dream to make football big back home



Maya Yoshida has adapted to playing in England and believes it has improved his game

By Gordon Simpson

**MAYA Yoshida is a man who likes a challenge.**

Whether it be leaving the comfort of his homeland, Japan, to embark on a career in Europe, or trying to master the English language, the 26-year-old is someone who has always tried to push himself.

Establishing himself in the Premier League has perhaps been one of Yoshida's biggest undertakings, but it is not necessarily the greatest he has in mind.

That, instead, is attempting to help revolutionise how football is viewed in Japan and to make it a part of the country's mainstream culture.

It is something that Yoshida, as one of his country's highest-profile stars, feels a responsibility about.

"Football is not part of the culture in Japan yet," he said.

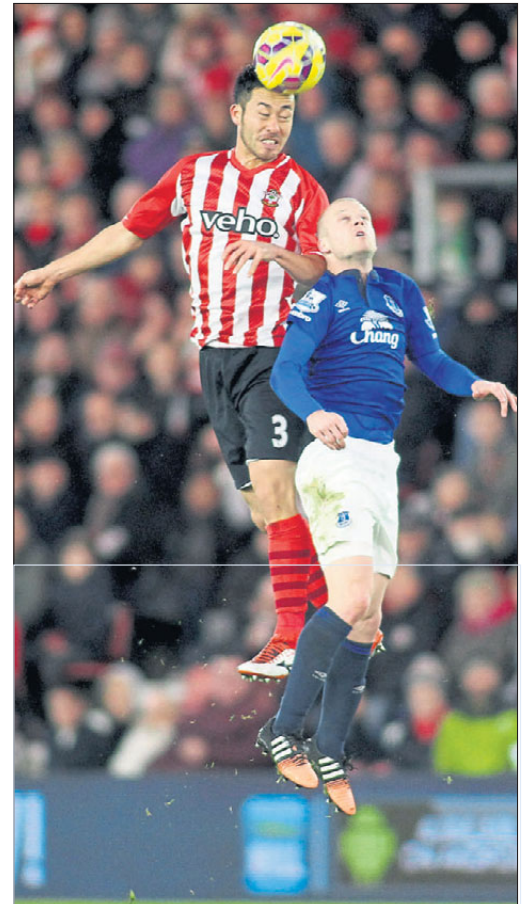
"In England, it is almost culture, everyone loves it, but football is like more fashion — it's not really become culture yet, so I want to make football to the Japanese culture."

Reaching the last 16 in the 2002 World Cup — a tournament in which they were joint hosts — and also the 2010 edition has, obviously, helped grow the popularity of the sport in Japan.

So too has the likes of Yoshida, Shinji Kagawa — and before them Hidetoshi Nakata — making a go of it in some of Europe's top leagues.

If football is to continue to grow in Japan, Yoshida believes players from his country need to continue to test themselves abroad, while the national team must also carry on their progress.

"It's really difficult, we need more time to do that, and we need to make good results constantly," he said.



Yoshida climbs highest to beat Everton's Steven Naismith to the ball

"Not just one time in the World Cup, but also four years or eight years — not only World Cup, but Asian Cup, Confederations Cup, many things. So we cannot stop. If we stop, we are finished. Simple.

"We go forwards and go to another level step by step."

Yoshida believes that, as a nation, Japan do have the capacity to seriously compete on the world stage.

"Potentially, very well I think," he said.

However, he believes they must start to go about things in a different way, by put-

ting themselves in a greater number of pressure situations.

Yoshida thinks Japan play too many home friendlies, and has been lobbying officials in his country to send the team abroad to face more established nations in order to help them properly develop.

"We are not used to playing in tough pressure, like we have in the Premier League every week," said Yoshida.

"Because now, here, every week there is a lot of pressure, a lot of tough games.

"The national team, just

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Yoshida holds off Isaiah Brown during the Europa League third qualifying round match between Vitesse and Saints.

one time in two years, (play in) like a big competition. There's not enough, if you know what I mean.

"Playing against Asian small countries is not really the same as much as the Premier League.

"But here in Europe everyone has such a high level, such a high pressure, so that's a big difference.

"That's why I'm always talking to the national team that we need to play away games. If they want to invite a strong country, a strong team, like for example England to come to Japan, what

they start to think for sure they want to see Tokyo, they want to see another place, they want to do sightseeing, so it's a little bit feeling like a holiday.

"But, no, we need a serious game, so we have to come to away game, like England at Wembley.

"England cannot lose against Japan in Wembley. That's why they're going to be 100 per cent. But in Japan it's not sure. They have many excuse, like jet lag, long flight, tired, scheduling, so we need to play away games."

That would certainly be more convenient for Yoshida, who currently lives about 6,000 miles from his home country. But he insists the travelling between Southampton and Japan does not bother him.

"It's lots of travelling, but I like the aeroplane, because normally I can just relax by myself, spending a very long time on myself," he said.

"I can watch movies, I can drink, I can eat what I want.

"People say it's really tough, the travelling a lot, but I am very happy and I understand how to adjust

the jet lag, because I'm used to it already.

"This is not really most difficult problem for me.

"But also there's pressure to play for my country.

"As a national team we couldn't make good results the last two years (Japan didn't win a game at the 2014 World Cup and only reached the quarter-finals of this year's Asian Cup). Maybe it's a more difficult moment for Japanese national team.

"As I said before, difficult moments makes me stronger and it's a very, very good opportunity to improve."



Yoshida celebrates after scoring his team's second goal during the pre-season friendly match against Feyenoord

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An incident in an Eastleigh v Oxford match

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## WEST HAM UNITED 3 AFC BOURNEMOUTH 4

# Wilson hat-trick fires Cherries to historic first Prem victory

CALLUM Wilson scored a memorable hat-trick as Bournemouth picked up their first Premier League victory at the expense of 10-man West Ham.

Having played well in their opening two league defeats, Cherries' boss Eddie Howe kept faith in the team that lost at Liverpool. They were the better side here and fully deserved the historic win.

Darren Randolph replaced the suspended Adrian in goal for the hosts and much was made of the fact he had shipped 16 goals in his last three games against the Cherries.

But the fact he was named West Ham's man of the match speaks volumes for how bad the rest of his team-mates were as Aaron Cresswell presented the visitors with their opening two goals and Carl Jenkinson became the fifth West Ham player to be sent off this season.

Wilson struck twice in the first-half but an early charge after the interval saw West Ham pull level through a Mark Noble penalty and a Cheikhou Kouyate goal.

But substitute Marc Pugh put Bournemouth back in front, with Wilson completing his hat-trick from the penalty spot after Jenkinson had been dismissed for pulling back Max Gradel.

West Ham got a third through substitute Modibo Maiga but no late onslaught arrived and Bournemouth held out for their first points.

Winston Reid had the ball in the net after six minutes but the goal was disallowed for an clear push on Bournemouth skipper Tommy Elphick.

The visitors snaffled up their first chance as Simon Francis caught Cresswell in possession before cutting back for Wilson to thrash home his first Premier League goal.

A first-half drinks break did not help West Ham get a foothold and it failed to crack Cresswell's mind as, under no pressure, he gifted possession to Wilson and the 23-year-old



AFC Bournemouth's Callum Wilson (centre left) celebrates scoring his tea's fourth goal and completes his hat-trick in Bournemouth's first premiership victory. PA Photo: Paul Harding.

coolly added his second.

Matt Jarvis came on at half-time for skipper Kevin Nolan and it was the man who took the armband who got the Hammers back into the game.

Noble was tripped inside the box by Josh King after Payet's initial free-kick had been punched by Ar-

tur Boruc and he dusted himself off to convert the resulting penalty.

West Ham were level seven minutes later as Diafra Sakho's turn and shot was palmed out by Boruc, with Kouyate on hand to turn home the rebound.

Mark Pugh's stinging drive was smartly stopped by Randolph but

the former Birmingham stopper could do nothing moments later as Pugh made up the ground to latch onto Gradel's pass and dodge two challenges before curling home.

Things went from bad to worse for the Hammers as Jenkinson was beaten to a long ball by Gradel and then pulled back the tricky winger

inside the box, conceding a penalty and a red card as a result.

Wilson completed his hat-trick, with his penalty just evading Randolph - but the points were still sealed as Maiga reduced the arrears with a good solo effort. That proved to be the last goal of a breathless encounter.

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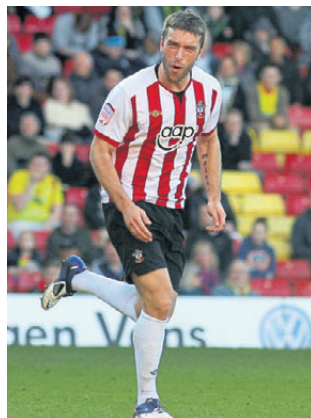
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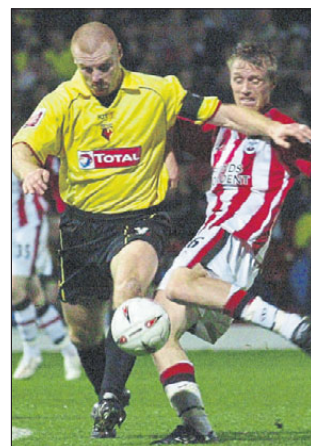
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Rickie Lambert celebrates his hat-trick at Vicarage Road in 2012.



Sean Dyche and Brett Ormerod tussle in 2004 Carling Cup match.



Ryan Smith in action at Watford during 2-2 draw in 2009.



Jelle van Damme rides a tackle in Saints' 2004 Carling Cup defeat.

# WATFORD v SAINTS: Previous meetings

## Mixed results for Saints at Watford

**SAINTS travel to Watford tomorrow, as they attempt to get their first three points of the Premier League campaign.**

The club have endured mixed results on their most recent trips to Vicarage Road, but are in need of a good one this weekend, after last Saturday's 3-0 home defeat to Everton, *writes Jack Adams.*

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks back at Saints' last five games away to Watford, starting 11 years ago.

**Watford 5 Saints 2  
Carling Cup, round of 16  
November 9, 2004**

Watford, who were then a Championship side, pummelled top-flight Saints in a demolition job at Vicarage Road that left Saints red-faced and pushed manager Steve Wigley closer to the exit door at St Mary's.

Neal Ardley provided the assist for Watford's first two goals, which came either side of half time, with Bruce Dyer heading home before James Chambers netted with a volley.

Chambers then smashed home his second ten minutes later after a good Watford move tore open the Saints defence.

Heidar Helguson then added to the embarrassment by making it 4-0 to the hosts.

Even when Saints did get on the scoresheet, via an 84th-minute consolation from Dexter Blackstock, the goal was cancelled out in the same minute by Hameur Bouazza to make it 5-1.

Brett Ormerod's header pulled Saints a goal nearer in the dying stages, but did nothing to make the result any less palatable, as Watford gained revenge for Saints' FA Cup semi-final win in 2003, which had been the last time the teams had met before this.

**Watford 3 Saints 0  
Championship  
December 26, 2005**

George Burley's first game in charge as manager of Saints did not go to plan, as Watford cruised to a comfortable victory.

Burley made his mark by fielding a very young, inexperienced-looking team, including a 16-year-old Theo Walcott, a 17-year-old Nathan Dyer and a defence that featured Matthew Mills, 19, and Martin Cranie, 18.

This brave move backfired as Darius Henderson headed Watford into the lead, before Clarke Carlisle made it 2-0 before half-time.

Burley subbed Tomasz Hajto on at half time, and insult was added to injury as Hajto scored an own-goal just two minutes after coming on.

Following a gloomy Boxing Day afternoon, Burley thanked the uplifting fans who were "absolutely magnificent". On the pitch, Burley said he was aware that "there are a number of things that have got to be worked at".



Jan Paul Saeijs celebrates his stunning late free-kick at Watford in 2009 - an effort that earned Saints a 2-2 draw just days after the club went into administration.

**Watford 3 Saints 2  
Championship  
September 16, 2007**

Saints lost out in an early-season away game, after a late Watford comeback turned the result on its head.

Danny Shittu's header on 42 minutes put the Hornets ahead, but Grzegorz Rasiak denied them a half-time lead as he poked home an equaliser from the edge of the box just before the interval.

Nathan Dyer then put Saints in front with a great effort from outside the box on 69 minutes, curling the ball into the far bottom corner.

As time ticked on, it looked increasingly likely that George Burley's men were going to get

their third consecutive win, but Darius Henderson had other ideas.

He equalised with a back post finish in the 81st minute, before he hit a 90th-minute winner to put the Hornets top of the league and put a halt to Saints' impressive run of wins.

**Watford 2 Saints 2  
Championship  
April 7, 2009**

Saints salvaged a late point thanks to Jan Paul Saeijs' stunning long-range free-kick, but it did little to brighten the mood just days after the club went into administration.

Sitting at 23rd in the league, and with the prospect of a ten-point deduction hanging over them, there was a sense of now or never

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ABOVE: Nathan Dyer celebrates a brilliant strike that put Saints 2-1 up away to Watford in a 2007 Championship match, only for George Burley's side to relinquish the lead late on and lose 3-2. BELOW RIGHT: Gregory Vignal comes to terms with the defeat.

to a Saints escape.

So, although the side would end up happy to salvage a point with an 89th-minute goal, the reality was the result did little to boost their hopes of surviving relegation.

As well as being the late hero, Saeijs also scored the game's opener, heading in an early Ryan Smith corner.

The lead didn't last long, though, as Aleksandrs Cauņa soon beat Kelvin Davis at his near post, before Tamas Priskin headed Watford in front during the second half.

The game was during

Brendan Rodgers short spell at Watford, and he would have seen Adam Lallana come on as a sub, unaware that he'd be spending £20m on him as Liverpool manager five years later.

Future star Morgan Schneiderlin also started on the bench, but didn't get on the pitch.

#### **Watford 0 Saints 3 Championship February 25, 2012**

Rickie Lambert showed why he became the Championship's player of the season, with a clinical hat-trick at Vicarage Road during Saints' rise

to the Premier League.

Tomasz Kuszczak, Watford's debutant loanee goalkeeper from Manchester United, endured a day to forget in the home goal, as Lambert ran riot.

The first goal arrived after 13 minutes, as Kuszczak saw the ball loop over him and into the net after Lambert met Jose Fonte's cross with his head.

In the 21st minute, Lambert then got his second, netting a brilliant low strike from Adam Lallana's pull back, as his first-time right-footed effort flew past Kuszczak and into the bottom corner.

The Lallana-to-Lambert combination was a recurring assist/goal

partnership that was crucial in the club securing back-to-back promotions from League One into the Premier League.

Lambert rounded off his hat-trick in the 72nd minute with a penalty, after Tadanari Lee was fouled in the area by Carl Dickinson, maintaining his 100 per cent record for Saints from the spot.

Nigel Adkins brought off the striker on 84 minutes to a fantastic ovation from the travelling fans, with his goals on this day having propelled Saints to the top of the league. Afterwards, Adkins insisted "it's not as if we can't win without Rickie" before labelling him an "exceptionally good football player".

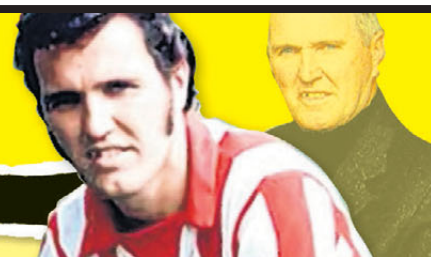


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# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



## Banning all media can only spell big trouble

**IT HAS often been said that there is no such thing as bad press, but in the Football League that doesn't seem to be ringing true at the moment.**

Over the summer, Swindon Town decided to ban media from all press conferences.

In fact, all employed staff members are off limits to the press, except for the duties they are contractually obliged to fulfil by the Football League.

Swindon are not the first club to go down the path of banning media from stadia.

In 2013, Nottingham Forest limited club access to reporters from the local daily paper. Later that year they went further, banning reporters from national papers that attended matches but did not file reports.

Just a few weeks ago, Newcastle United ironically banned reporters from the stadium because they were going to ask about media bans.

What does make Swindon different, however, is that they have removed access to every local and national media outlet in one go.

What is happening there will have implications for the teams above, and the way the media interact with clubs.

It is already hard enough to get coverage of your team if you are in the Football League, and it may seem strange to limit access at a time when media coverage outside the Premier League is on the increase due to internet match reports allowing more details.

With limited coverage of teams in the lower division, local media has a vital role alerting fans to issues within the club that national media just won't pick up on.

The real difference in the level of media coverage between the Football League and the Premier League can be seen by how little coverage this story attracted.

The news of the ban barely warranted any real attention from the national media, as lower league press conferences usually consist of one journalist and a tea lady.

If Manchester United tried the same thing there would be outrage.

The whole issue comes down to one simple question: how accountable should clubs be?

Football clubs are technically businesses, and as such should only have to answer to shareholders.

But everyone who has ever supported a club knows that isn't really the case.

No one would really care if their favourite shop was failing to disclose huge debt and about to go bust. But when a football club is in the same situation, fans do have a right to know. They may not be shareholders, but they invest a large amount of time and money supporting the team.

Fans have a vested interest in their club and no way of getting answers, except through the media.



Swindon Town have made some unpopular decisions when it comes to allowing media access to their club. But what are the implications?

Reporters generally have direct access to the players and staff and can ask the questions fans want answered.

When the club tries to put a positive spin on the four non-league players you signed, despite promises of money being made available, fans need someone to ask what's going on.

Swindon suggested that the local media has a bias against the club and opts to only show the negative issues at the club. By banning the media and handling their own PR, it makes the club seem like they have something to hide.

It could also be argued that the point of the media is to challenge happy-clappy spin that clubs put on news items and match reports.

Swindon's complaint was that the local paper chose to make a charge for an illegal player approach their top story, yet spent

only a few lines commenting on a player arriving from Liverpool.

Obviously, the media are there to sell papers and the club are there to sell their team. The assumption by Swindon that the local media's negative spin is affecting the club in any way is probably very far from the truth.

The whole situation would seem far more noble if it didn't coincide with Town using a new app called Fanzai as their official source of news.

Whilst so far they deny there is any financial gain, they suggest that in the future they may benefit from this partnership.

Fanzai has been slowly breaking into the football social media market, hoping to replace apps like Twitter.

Big name players like John Terry have already signed up to be able to give you 'valu-

able' insight, like what he is having for breakfast.

Whilst the ban only prevents access to the players and removes weekly press conferences, what real interest is there for a paper to cover a team when they can't actually follow up on any stories?

The ban also brings up a lot more questions about how far clubs will go to protect their image.

So far, clubs cannot ban you from writing about them, but it seems that this could be the next step. Fans are already being sued for what they write on social media, and fan sites are getting wary.

At the moment, it seems unlikely that other clubs will follow the example set by Swindon, at least until they can see a real benefit. But there will be many watching with interest to see how things progress.



## Adam Rant



The week's big talking points  
with ADAM LEITCH

# Coe has to rebuild faith in athletics

New IAAF boss is right man but has urgent work to do

**SEB COE has one rather pressing matter at the top of his to-do list after being elected as the new president of the IAAF.**

The former Olympic gold medalist, and the man given much of the credit for the 2012 Olympics in London, has landed the top job in athletics.

There is no doubt that Coe has proved himself as worthy a diplomat as he was a runner.

It is proof that there can be a big crossover between success in sport and outside of it, whether you compete at the elite level or just below in non-team sports.

The kind of dedication, concentration, self-belief and mental discipline required to succeed at individual sports is immense.

They are the kind of tools that also transfer perfectly into life outside of sport, as Coe has shown.

However, taking over the sport's governing body at this exact moment is certainly a mixed bag.

After the outrageous accusations regarding doping and a mass of suspicious blood tests being left aside rather than investigated, there are huge shadows looming over athletics.

We are just a year away from the next Olympics, and some confidence and faith needs to be restored in the sport by then.

The revelations of recent weeks have been so extraordinary that urgent moves need to be made.

The first reactions of various groups just cast further doubt on their ability to really get to grips with and deal with the problems the sport faces.

It gave the impression, rightly or wrongly, that athletics as a sport almost acknowledged that there is, or at least had been, widespread cheating, but that it is so widespread that it is too much to tackle.

There is now a sense in the general public that most of them must be at it, and that if the relevant authorities really looked hard then the whole house of cards would come tumbling down, just like it did in cycling, and with all that is at stake there are vested interests for whom it is better just to turn a blind eye.

That may not actually be true, but it is the impression that has been given to the public.



Lord Sebastian Coe has a tough job ahead of him after being elected as president of the IAAF

It's one that Coe needs to challenge. Now, like Chris Froome, you fancy athletes will be under pressure to try and desperately explain that they are winning cleanly, rather than an assumption that is the case

unless proven otherwise.

With the Olympics in Rio just around the corner, it needs sorting out straightaway. Time is of the essence.

Coe has a massive task on his

hands to address the problems and restore faith, but he must tackle the issue head on.

The impression that those in power have not done so seems to have made this situation so much worse.

## Big need for striker

AS WE enter the final week or so of the transfer window you fancy there is a lot of money yet to be spent.

The opening games of the Premier League season have revealed a few unsurprising problems.

Manchester United, a club whose resources seem virtually limitless, are clearly in need of a striker.

Whether Wayne Rooney can or cannot play that role any longer — and he is surely better in a number ten position now — they have to have a genuinely world class striking option to really challenge.

Having seen John Stones for Everton at Saints last weekend, it's not hard to see why Chelsea will probably end up coughing up so much money to sign him. He is utter class, and looks like he could already play for a team of that stature.

At Saints it will be about completing the squad.

They need to, and will, recruit a central defender to bolster the numbers in that area.

If they get another player it will likely be in an attacking role, but if nobody becomes available within budget then they might well go with what they have got.



Wayne Rooney

## Give them a chance

THERE were some vaguely amusing suggestions about the future of women's cricket over the last few days.

Perhaps they should play on a shorter pitch some wondered, or with an even lighter ball.

It was a response to an uninspiring Test match between England and Australia. By all accounts it was pretty turgid, but that is what men's cricket was like even 15 years ago before T20 changed everything.

Perhaps the best way to support the women's game is to let it evolve naturally too, and don't shove it forward too fast, and compare it to the men's game, purely in the name of equality.



# Non league FOOTBALL



## FA Cup home tie

WINCHESTER City will host Wincanton Town in the FA Cup preliminary round next Saturday.

After being drawn at home to Wincanton in the extra preliminary round, Whitchurch United will have fancied their chances of progressing.

But the Jam Boys were held 1-1 at Longmeadow and exited the competition with a 3-1 defeat in Tuesday's replay.

Wincanton, of the Western League, went ahead after 20 minutes and doubled their lead before half-time, after a mistake from visiting goalkeeper Brad Snelling.

Sean Ayeomoni's strike got the Jam Boys back into it, but they conceded a third late on.

Whitchurch's Sydenhams Premier rivals Hamworthy United and Cowes Sports had better luck in their replays.

An own goal gave Shane Traynor's Hamworthy a 1-0 victory at Hallen, setting up a home tie with Andover Town.

Cowes saw off Melksham Town 3-1 with goals from Charlie Smeeton (2) and Aidan Sainsbury and will host Wimborne Town next.



ERROR: Brad Snelling

## New club launched

A NEW youth football club, Diamond Soccer YFC, has been launched.

It caters for seven to 11-year-olds and trains at Southampton's Millbrook Recreation Ground.

Training will take place on Mondays and Thursdays (6pm-7.30pm), while the club also has a centre in New Milton, training on Tuesdays and Fridays (6.30pm-8pm).

Contact Chris Parry at [chrissoccer13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chrissoccer13@yahoo.co.uk) for more information.



## Page inspires Romsey to first win in debut match

DEBUTANT Matt Page bagged a brace as Romsey Town claimed their first win of the Sydenhams Division One season with a 2-1 win over Portland United at the Bypass Ground.

Despite losing to Tadley Calleva on the opening day, Romsey showed no signs of lacking confidence as they raced into a two-goal lead at half-time.

A corner taken by Jordan Prince, pictured left, caused confusion in the Portland defence and the ball fell to Page, who recently moved from Sydenhams

Premier Division side Fareham Town, at the near post. His cleanly-struck shot clipped the inside of the post before nestling in the net.

Page then latched onto a loose ball and fired home his second of the match from fully 25 yards.

If the first 45 minutes was all about Town's flair and imagination, the second 45 was about their fight and resilience, as a regrouped Portland side clawed their way back into the game and pulled a goal back through their

striker Alex Godfrey.

After the visitors went down to ten men, Town closed out a much tighter second half to collect their first three points of the season.

Following the game, Town manager Andy Samuels said, he was "delighted" with the outcome.

"The first-half is probably the best we've played in the six months I have been in charge," Samuels purred. "I thought new signings Wayne (Boud) and Matt (Page) did very well."

# Whites complete double win with victory and new striker

## 2-0 Andover win and new signing delights Claridge

**SALISBURY boss Steve Claridge received a double dose of good news on Tuesday night.**

Not only did the Whites register their first-ever Sydenhams Premier Division victory, but the signing of Robbie Matthews was confirmed before the 2-0 win at Andover Town, writes Wendy Gee.

A goal in each half by new signing Tom Whelan and former Follands man Calum Brockway settled the issue in front of a bumper 500-plus Portway Stadium crowd.

Wiltshire-born Matthews, 33, started out at Salisbury and went on to play for the likes of Crawley Town, Kidderminster Harriers, Newport County and Forest Green Rovers.

He is also fondly remembered at Stoneham Lane, where he helped Eastleigh climb the leagues towards the Conference South.

A versatile centre forward/centre half, the towering Matthews was with Gosport Borough last season and had a spell on loan with Hayes & Yeading.

Hailing the big man's return, Claridge said: "We are delighted to have Robbie back. He is a versatile lad and will help bring on our younger players as well as making a big contribution either up top or at the back."

A majestic Whelan free-kick and a Brockway header secured the Whites' first three-point haul of the season.

Inside the opening ten minutes, Kane O'Keefe's shot forced a diving save from Andover keeper Jamie



Robbie Matthews has returned to Salisbury City

Bray, with ex-Eastleigh striker Sam Wilson firing the rebound against the woodwork.

The breakthrough came on 25 minutes, when Whelan, a recent signing from Poole Town, bent a free-kick around the wall and into the top corner from 25 yards.

Both sides were then denied by the woodwork. Andover's Sam Pekun's drilled effort across the area ricocheted off the boot of O'Keefe's boot, with only the post preventing an own-goal.

Then, at the other end, Claudio Herbert's corner caused mayhem

and Wilson took a touch before firing against the crossbar.

Salisbury's second goal arrived early in the second half, when a set-piece found Brockway in the area. The defender timed his jump to perfection, looping a header over the stranded Bray.

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## Non league FOOTBALL



### Stanley speaks out about his Eastleigh departure

FORMER Eastleigh midfielder Craig Stanley has spoken for the first time about the bust-up that led to his departure from the Silverlake Stadium.

Stanley, pictured left, was back at Stoneham Lane last Saturday, playing for Lincoln City in a 1-1 Vanarama National League draw.

It will have brought memories flooding back of that fateful night in late April night when, in the full glare of the BT Sport cameras, he let Spitfires boss Richard Hill know in no uncertain

terms just how frustrated he was at being substituted during the Conference play-off semi-final, first leg, against Grimsby.

Eastleigh lost that game 2-1 and Stanley was conspicuous by his absence for the second leg defeat at Blundell Park.

Little was said publicly about the incident at the time and the 32-year-old former Bristol Rovers midfielder was released during the summer.

Reflecting on the blow-up in an interview with The Non-League Paper, Stan-

ley said: "Yeah, things didn't work out with Eastleigh at the end.

"It was obviously all publicised and people saw what happened. It was frustration. Maybe I thought to myself I shouldn't be substituted in the play-off game because I thought I was doing well.

"It's gone now and, while I haven't really got much to prove, I want to show people I'm still a good footballer."

The honours were shared last Saturday as James Constable's strike cancelled out Jack Muldoon's opener.

### Club want cohesion

EASTLEIGH chairman Stewart Donald is a big believer that "great things come from small beginnings."

And it's not just his desire to see the Spitfires gracing the Football League that motivates his major investment of time, energy and money into the flourishing Vanarama National League outfit.

By working closely with the people of the town, he is aiming to establish the Spitfires as the ultimate community club.

Eastleigh have been delivering coaching services to schools since September 2005 and want to expand their working partnerships in the community.

"We want to continue our primary schools project, which sees staff visiting local schools, delivering football coaching and underlining the importance of teamwork," said Sharon King of Eastleigh FC in the Community. We also want to continue and grow our work with the community's senior citizens and to show our commitment to disabled supporters by offering facilities that ensure disability is no barrier to enjoying a first-class matchday experience."

Eastleigh intend making the Silverlake Stadium the hub of community activity and last year they invested in a community stand.

"We want to thank the generosity of our supporters, players and staff and believe we can continue to widen the scope of our work in the community," added King.

Eastleigh are also looking to link up with scouts, brownies and girl guide groups, getting coaching staff and players involved with sports activity badges and inviting youngsters to attend games as ball boys, flag bearers and guards of honour. The Spitfires have also received an enquiry from the RAF and are looking to host themed days at the Silverlake.

Following the success of their 'community fixture' against Macclesfield Town last season, which attracted a record crowd of 4,126, Eastleigh repeated the offer of free tickets for local sports clubs for today's game against the Silkmen.

Thanks to community sponsors Total Fleet Services, there is another 'community fixture' planned for September 12, when Gateshead come to town.

Any girls' or boys' teams wishing to gain free admission to the Gateshead game should contact 023 8061 3361 or email [community@eastleighfc.com](mailto:community@eastleighfc.com) or [kamor@eastleighfc.com](mailto:kamor@eastleighfc.com).

# Hill happy with a point after unconvincing performance

Eastleigh 'got out of jail' in their 2-2 draw with Welling

**EASTLEIGH boss Richard Hill was pleased with a point at Welling United on Tuesday, but not entirely convinced by his side's performance.**

James Constable pounced for his fourth goal of a prolific opening to the campaign to hand the visitors a first-half lead, *writes Wendy Gee*.

But a spirited home side hit back through a Jamie Turley own goal and Xavier Vidal's second-half strike before substitute Ben Strevens summoned up a 78th-minute equaliser to grab a share of the Vanarama National League spoils.

Confessing his side had "got out of jail" in the 2-2 draw, Hill said: "When we scored the first goal, we should have asserted our authority on the game, but we didn't do that.

"Welling is always a tough place to come, but with our performance I'm happy we've got a point. Whether we deserved it or not, I don't know, but we've got it.

"If any positive has come from the game, it's that we've kept going, found something from somewhere and got an equaliser," concluded Hill. "But that wasn't the sort of performance I'm seeing from us on a regular basis, and we have to do better than that. Sometimes our defending, which has been assured before tonight, was a bit erratic for no apparent reason.

"Give Welling credit. They were the better team on the night, without any shadow of a doubt. But we've found something from somewhere."

Eastleigh's 23rd-minute breakthrough was a joy to behold, with five players involved in some bright one-touch football before Constable latched onto Jack Midson's pass to net his fourth goal in as many games.

But Hill rued: "The thing that annoys me a little bit is that, at 1-0 up, that was our opportunity to go on and exert our authority on the game, and we didn't. We gave the ball away too



Eastleigh goalscorer Ben Strevens with manager Richard Hill

cheaply, too often. When you do that, you will end up on the back foot."

Turley's unfortunate deflection on Ben Jefford's cross levelled matters on the half-hour and the Wings led when the ball ricocheted for Vidal to force his way past 'keeper Michael Poke and gleefully thump home.

But Eastleigh levelled seven minutes later thanks to a duo of substitutes. Jai Reason was upended by Harry Lee and lifted a free-kick to the back post where Strevens was waiting to head home.

Welling frontman George Porter was disappointed not to ruin East-

leigh's unbeaten start to the season.

"We're happy with a point, but we knew we should have got three against a team that are probably going to be up there this year," he said.

The result left Eastleigh sixth, four points adrift of early pacemakers Forest Green Rovers.



# Non league FOOTBALL



Poole Town's Tom Killick

## Poole manager defends player over leg break tackle

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick described as "a complete accident" the incident that left St Neots winger Remy Gordon with a broken leg.

Gordon suffered a clean break of his right fibula when he and Poole substitute Jamie Davidson competed for a loose ball in the closing stages of the Dolphins' 3-2 win at the Premier Plus Arena last Saturday.

Stressing that Davidson, a summer signing from Wimborne, had been blameless, Killick said: "It looked an in-

nocuous challenge, but led to quite serious consequences for their player.

"Both players went in for the ball and I don't know whether the injury came as a result of the impact or falling awkwardly, but suddenly it became evident that he was in a little bit of difficulty.

"There was no booking and no foul given as such, and there was no reaction from their players and management.

"I don't think anyone thought it was anything other than a complete accident.

"It's never pleasant to see somebody badly injured on a football field, whether it is a player from your team or the opposition.

"We hope he recovers well and returns to the field as soon as possible."

The injury to Gordon, who is the son of former Norwich and AFC Bournemouth star Dale, soured a significant win for Poole against a team that had ended their promotion hopes in last season's Southern Premier Division play-off semi-final.

## Troubling contracts

**GRAHAM Kemp** feels Mark Ford's situation at Salisbury is a good example of why players shouldn't be on contract in the Sydenhams Wessex League.

Former Weymouth striker Ford, who had a spell with Blackfield & Langley last term, incurred the wrath of Salisbury's Steve Claridge by missing two of the Whites' critical opening games.

He said he couldn't play because of work commitments, but Claridge later discovered he had attended a Weymouth match when he said he was unavailable.

That hole in the strike force meant Claridge, already without Ashley Jarvis due to a three-match suspension, had just one centre-forward available in Sam Wilson.

And the Whites paid the price as Whitchurch United beat them 2-1 in their first ever Wessex home game.

Claridge, who was also without Ford for the opening-day 0-0 draw at Brockenhurst, later admitted the striker had let Salisbury down "very, very badly."

But Kemp, manager of Sydenhams Premier neighbours Bemerton Heath Harlequins, said: "I have my opinions which people don't like sometimes, but I just don't understand why players sign contracts in the Wessex League. The money's not that great to make signing a contract worthwhile and, if you've got confidence in your own ability, you will play for that club anyway.

"I know Mark quite well and he's lost his way over the last season and a half since leaving Weymouth. Now he finds himself stuck on a contract at Salisbury and they are in their rights to keep him as long as they want to. I can see why Salisbury do it (put players on contract) to keep a steady team all season and I know that if you don't have players on contract there is always a danger you will lose them.

"But Mark's a good player and it's a shame he's reached the third Saturday of the season and he's played against no one yet."



Salisbury's Mark Ford

# Solent to improve as season continues, says boss Taylor

Bad start after FA Cup exit with 4-3 loss to Blackfield

**TEAM Solent boss James Taylor is confident his side will get stronger as the Sydenhams Premier season progresses.**

As the manager of a university team, Taylor has the advantage of having a different pool of players to dip into to the ones traditionally doing the rounds of the local non-League circuit, *writes Wendy Gee.*

But the flip side of that coin is that many of his better players do not return until the university year gets going towards the end of September.

Skipper Jesse Waller-Lassen – an ex-Tottenham Hotspur trainee – and midfielder Sam Byles, formerly of Arsenal, are still enjoying a break in the United States, along with Jim Orvis, while Mark Jordan is spending his summer in Australia.

In their absence, Team Solent have already exited the FA Cup 4-3 at Blackfield & Langley despite a gutsy second-half revival which saw them claw back from 3-0 down.

"We're still a good few players missing but, as a university side, we always knew it was going to be that way and we've just got to deal with it," said Taylor.

"There are pluses and minuses of being a university side, but this was always going to be the case and we know we will improve."

Although Team Solent haven't had an ideal start to the season, they are nowhere as badly off as this time last year when, with Taylor newly installed as boss, they opened their Sydenhams One campaign with an 8-2 home defeat by Amesbury.

The fact they eventually emerged as champions, winning the Southampton Senior Cup into the bargain, lends weight to Taylor's theory that the best has yet to come from his newly-promoted squad.

He said: "We'll be about eight league games in by the time we're up



Ex-Arsenal player Sam Byles will be back at Team Solent later in the season to help their Sydenhams Premier campaign.

to full strength, but we're already a lot better at the start of this season than we were last year and we've got to try and keep progressing.

"We're still waiting for our squad to appear, but we've still got a decent side and we've got to try and get points on the board before then.

"We'll have 14-15 players for the next few weeks and obviously the FA Cup came a bit too soon for us."

With 45 minutes gone of the extra preliminary round tie at Test Park,

Blackfield were 3-0 up and cruising through Dan Munday, Ekow Elliott and Miguel Laborda Gil. Munday then struck again in the second half, after Solent had made it 3-1, but it was real edge-of-the-seat stuff after that as Matt Sheedy netted his second for Solent followed by one from player/boss Taylor to make it 4-3.

"We gave them a massive head start and then decided to turn up, but it wasn't quite enough," reflected Taylor. We've got the FA Vase coming up

(home to Christchurch, September 5) and it would be nice to try and win one of those games at least.

With Pip Nolan and Matt Burt departing for Salisbury during the summer, Taylor has had gaps to fill in central defence.

He admitted: "It was a bit of a blow to lose both centre-halves three weeks before the season started, but when a club like Salisbury comes in and offers money, understandably players are going to go."



## Non league FOOTBALL



### Planemakers happy to let unsettled striker leave

FOLLAND Sports won't stand in the way of David Jerrard signing Sydenhams Wessex forms for Bemerton Heath Harlequins.

As far as the Planemakers are concerned, the young striker is already history at Follands Park.

Jerrard initially stayed on with the club after Jay Keating, the manager who signed him for Follands during the summer, was sacked after just three months in charge. He played and scored in their opening game of the season against Be-

merton, but has not featured since.

New boss Kevin Jackson, pictured left, said: "Having been selected for our FA Cup tie (at Longwell Green Sports), David asked me not to play him in the FA Cup and I've heard he's gone down to Gosport to play for their under-21s.

"If players don't want to play for us, we're prepared to let them go. If David Jerrard was asking not to play in the FA Cup then he doesn't want to play for Follands. His attitude didn't sit right with us."

Follands were beaten 4-1 at home by AFC Portchester on Tuesday, their fourth straight defeat, but Jackson was pleased with the performance under the circumstances.

Dan To, a young midfielder, scored on his debut, and was joined in the squad by fellow new signings Jamie Craven, Liam Golding and Michael Dark.

"Tuesday's scoreline didn't really reflect the game," said Jackson. "We're still working hard and I'm sure results will start coming our way."

### Brock are 'selective'

PAT McManus's phone has been red hot this week with players wanting to join his new-look Brockenhurst side.

But, after learning some harsh lessons last season, the Grigg Lane boss says he will be "selective" about who comes into the Sydenhams Premier Division club.

After a summer of transition, the Badgers have been left with just four familiar faces from the 2014/15 campaign.

While some of the players that left in the summer went with McManus's blessing, he was disappointed to lose Will Tickle to former Brock boss John Pyatt at Lympington Town and see Brad Magookin disappear to Blackfield & Langley a couple of days before the season started.

"It's a shame because we could have married a few of the lads from last season with some that have come in this year," McManus said. "As things turned out, I was still trailing people on the Tuesday before the new season started and some of the team hadn't actually played together when the season kicked off.

"My phone's been ringing with people wanting to come and join us but, after what happened last year, I'm trying to be a bit more selective.

"I need players who are happy to be part of the first-team squad and won't go on the missing list if they're named on the bench."

To say the Badgers had a mixed start to the campaign would be an understatement.

Having held hotly-tipped Salisbury to a 0-0 opening-day draw, they were beaten 7-1 at Hamworthy United four days later.

"After the Salisbury result some of the young lads thought we were there and there was a bit of misplaced arrogance at Hamworthy," McManus confessed. "But, to be fair, everything Hamworthy touched turned to gold.

"We always knew there would be good days and bad for the first month or so with a new team, but I didn't expect a day as bad as that one. It was unacceptable."

Brock recovered well last Saturday to progress to the FA Cup preliminary round with a 2-0 home win over Fareham Town.

A goal in each half by former Sholing midfielder Elliot Richards and Mark Barker booked the Badgers a tough home tie against Southern One South & West outfit Yate Town next Saturday (August 29).

Brock chalked up another win on Tuesday, beating Team Solent 2-0 at Grigg Lane in the Sydenhams Premier. Ryan Long, a summer recruit from Folland Sports, struck in the 50th and 58th minutes.

# Harlequins manager keen to snare Jerrard from Follands

Kemp believes he can make striker a goal machine

**BEMERTON** Heath Harlequins boss Graham Kemp is keen on getting David Jerrard back to Western Way.

The former Dorchester Town reserves striker spent the back end of last season dual-signed with the Harlequins and scored five goals in as many games, *writes Wendy Gee*.

He joined Folland Sports during the summer, following his old Magpies' boss Jay Keating to Follands Park.

Keating subsequently lost his job before the season had even started, but Jerrard stayed put and scored for the Planemakers in their 3-1 defeat – against Kemp's Bemerton – on the opening night of the season.

Having spotted Jerrard's potential during his time as Dorchester boss, Kemp is keen to see the striker make the most of his undoubted talent.

"David played with us last season, but he didn't really know me and I was trying to get across to him how I like giving young players the opportunity to progress," he said.

"I think he was led astray a bit by Follands telling him they'd get him trials here and there, but the fact is that he was at Dorchester (of the Southern Premier) last year and now he's with a club at the bottom of the Wessex League."

National League South outfit Gosport Borough are also aware of Jerrard and Kemp reckons the ideal next step for the player would be to train with the Privett Park outfit and get game time with Bemerton.

"He's been training with Gosport and he could do that every week while getting minutes with us," Kemp said.

Kemp has a proven track record with developing young players, principally at his old club Christchurch.

He helped the likes of Eastleigh's Michael Green and AFC Bournemouth's Harry Cornick on their way up the football ladder and several more of his ex-Priory crop are plying their trade at Southern League level.



Ex-Dorchester striker David Jerrard is a target for Bemerton Heath Harlequins

"We could do the same for David. He should be training with the Gosports or Dorchesters of this world," he said.

"He doesn't live that far from our ground so I'm hoping he can play for us."

Bemerton made it three wins out

of three league and cup games on Tuesday, seeing off Verwood Town 4-1 at Western Way thanks to goals from Jack Slade, Tom Roberts (penalty), Tom Jeffes and Will Robinson. Verwood's cause wasn't helped by having their goalkeeper Chris Lynch red-carded when they were 1-0 down.

Harlequins boss Kemp said: "Three wins out of three is good. We can play better, but any win is a good win at the moment.

"There are going to be some strong sides with Salisbury, Portchester, Sholing and so on, but we're no mugs."



# Non league FOOTBALL



## Luffman delighted

OTTERBOURNE boss Richard Luffman was mightily pleased to see Fleetlands win on Tuesday night.

Luffman had been racked with guilt after his team demolished Key Wrapson's Fleetlands 17-0 last Saturday in the Hampshire Premier League, writes Pete Howard.

The Otters boss apologised to Wrapson post-match after seeing his side set a new club and league record.

And Luffman's outfit went top of the table on Tuesday with a 2-1 win at champions Hamble Club, thanks to goals from debutant Chris Mason – the former Winchester star – and Steven Hall.

"I apologised to them after Saturday," explained Luffman. "Many of our players had one eye on impressing ahead of the Hamble match."

Last season's top-scorer Tom Sands netted a remarkable five goals, while two others – Tommy Wright and Ashley Hewer – got a hat-trick each.

Tommy Ashton scored a brace and Tom Richards, Scott Munro, James Eyles and Steve Hall chipped in with singles.



DEBUTANT: Chris Mason

## Crisis is averted

PETERSFIELD Town have solved their goalkeeping crisis by welcoming Tom Boyle to Love Lane.

The promoted Sydenhams Premier champions have suffered rotten luck in the No1 department, leading to a frantic search for cover, and it was Great Britain deaf football team goalie Boyle who came in to save the day.

After kicking off the Southern Division One Central season with two draws and an abandoned game against Fleet Town when they 4-0 up before the Love Lane floodlights frustratingly failed, Petersfield suffered a 2-1 reverse at league leaders Northwood on Tuesday.

Ian Saunders' men were two down within the first half-hour, but fought back late through Lewis Hyde and were unlucky not to salvage a point.



## No cause for panic yet despite Town's winless start

BASINGSTOKE Town's winless start to the season goes on, but manager Jason Bristow insists he is not panicking yet.

The Dragons have failed to win any of their opening four National League South fixtures, though this week's draws against Bishop's Stortford and Oxford City were an improvement on the defeats they suffered in the opening four days of the campaign.

Town's stuttering start left them 19th, ten points behind early leaders Bath City, going into today's home test

against newly-promoted Margate.

Bristow, pictured left, whose side reached the play-offs last season, said: "We have got to keep the players' heads up, keep believing in what we are doing, roll our sleeves up and go again."

"We cannot panic. We have got good players both individually and collectively."

"I think we just need to get that first win now. When we do that, I think we will go on a run."

Former Eastleigh and Winchester City

striker Chris Flood scored a fine late equaliser as Basingstoke claimed a 1-1 draw with visiting Bishop's Stortford last Saturday.

Bristow's men twice led through Lloyd Macklin and Louie Soares at Oxford in midweek, but once again had to settle for a share of the points as City hit back to 2-2 with a Bradley Bubb penalty.

"It was another frustrating evening," Bristow confessed. "It was a game which could have been wrapped up inside the first 20 minutes."

# Hot property striker Bentley attracts attention with form

City boss believes goal machine has massive potential

**AFTER banging in nine goals in Winchester City's opening two games of the Southern League season, Warren Bentley's reputation is beginning to spread.**

Until recently the 25-year-old marksman had been something of a hidden gem in the Sydenhams Wessex League, but City's elevation to the Evo-Stik South & West has given him the platform to reach a much wider audience, writes Wendy Gee.

After a prolific first season at the Denplan City Ground, Bentley, who is a PE teacher at Sholing Technology College, decided to stay loyal to the Citizens during the summer, even though it initially looked as if they would stay in the Wessex League.

Welcoming their late promotion to the Southern ranks, he said: "When it was confirmed, I was delighted."

"I don't think I had much else to prove at Wessex level and this a good test for me."

It's a test Bentley has so far passed with flying colours, plundering an extraordinary five first-half goals against Bridgwater and banging in another four at Wimborne the following midweek.

He and Winchester went through a temporary drought in the 0-0 draw at Yate Town, while Bentley missed Wednesday's 6-1 demolition job on Marlow – and today's trip to Evesham – due to a holiday.

Doubtless he will come back fit, firing and hungrier than ever when he returns next week and, inevitably, bigger fish will start to circle if he continues to find the back of the net with such awesome regularity.

Tongue-in-cheek rumours have already started on Winchester's fans' forum about Bentley being up for sale, to which director of football Dave Malone responded: "Every player is for sale – at the right price – and that would certainly be considerable in the case of Warren Bentley."



Warren Bentley has been in good form for Winchester City so far this season

"Luckily for us, Warren is a level-headed individual and all this publicity will not go to his head."

City boss Paul Masters has been open-minded about Bentley's future all along.

The ex-Saints reserves midfielder said: "I've been brought up with good

strikers and I'm sure Warren would score at all levels."

"It's not up to me to band his name about but, if the right club came in, we wouldn't stand in his way."

"For me, the right club for Warren would be Conference South or above."

● AFC BOURNEMOUTH'S Mason Walsh is continuing his football education with Vanarama National League South club Bishop's Stortford.

The Cherries youngster is the son of former Liverpool and Tottenham striker Paul.



# Non league FOOTBALL



## Last minute Williams header earns Borough a point

FORMER Folland Sports winger Rory Williams, pictured left, struck just in the nick of time for Gosport Borough on Tuesday to salvage a 2-2 draw against Whitehawk in the Vanarama National League South.

Borough found themselves two down after 53 minutes – their first goals conceded this term – before hitting back through their all-time leading marksman Justin Bennett and Williams's stoppage-time leveller.

On a dramatic night at Privett Park

there was even time for Whitehawk's Arnaud Mendy to get red-carded in the dying seconds.

Williams' last-ditch equaliser had a touch of luck about it as his deep cross flew in at the far post. But they all count and proud Borough boss Alex Pike reflected afterwards: "I felt we got what we deserved.

"I am proud of my players and, if I could bottle it (their never-say-die spirit) and sell it, I would be a millionaire!"

It was unbeaten Borough's third draw

of the new season, leaving them eighth in the table with six points from four games.

Gosport's new development squad have joined the fledgling Dorset County FA Under-21s Development League.

The set-up will feature four teams in its maiden season – Gosport, Poole Town, Totton & Eling and Wimborne Town.

Each team will play their opponents home and away twice, providing 12 league fixtures apiece.

## Football Fixtures

Monday, August 24  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Team Solent v Fareham Town.

Tuesday, August 25  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Andover Town v Bemerton HH, Hamworthy Utd v Sholing, Hordean v Alresford, Newport IOW v Moneyfields, Salisbury v Bournemouth Poppies.  
HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Fleetlands v Baffins Milton Rovers, Headley Utd v Clanfield, Infinity v Paulsgrove, QK Southampton v Otterbourne, Winchester Castle v Overton.  
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Dorchester Town v AFC Totton.  
Division One: Hythe & Dibden v Fawley AFC.

Wednesday, August 26  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Blackfield & Langley, Fawley AFC v Cowes Sports, Verwood v Folland Sports, Whitchurch v AFC Portchester.  
HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Bush Hill v Locks Heath, Colden Common v Stockbridge, Hedge End Rangers v Hamble Club, Liss Athletic v Liphook.  
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Moneyfields v Sholing.  
Division One: Bashley v Totton & Eling, Laverstock & Ford v Lyminster Town.  
John Stimpson Memorial Shield, league phase: Downton v Ringwood.

Thursday, August 27  
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE  
Premier Division: US Portsmouth v Team Solent.  
Division One: Romsey Town v AFC Stoneham.  
John Stimpson Memorial Shield, league phase: Winchester City v Alresford.

Friday, August 28  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Fawley AFC v Folland Sports.

Saturday, August 29  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Aldershot v Eastleigh.  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
Bath City v Havant & Waterlooville, Gosport Borough v Turo, Hayes & Yeading v Basingstoke Town.  
SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Chippenham v Dorchester, Slough v Poole, Weymouth v St Neots.  
FA CUP

Preliminary round: AFC Portchester v AFC Totton, Almondsbury UWE v Verwood Town, Bashley v Mangotsfield Utd, Blackfield & Langley v Bemerton HH, Bradford Town v Christchurch, Brockenhurst v Yate Town, Cowes Sports v Wimborne Town, Hamworthy v Andover Town, Moneyfields v Petersfield, Sholing v Swindon Supermarine, Winchester City v Wincanton Town.  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Bournemouth Poppies v Alresford, Team Solent v Newport IOW, Whitchurch Utd v Fareham Town.  
Division One: AFC Stoneham v Ringwood, Alton v Portland, Amesbury v Laverstock & Ford, East Cowes Vics v Downton, Fleet Spurs v Totton & Eling, New Milton v Hythe & Dibden, Romsey v Andover New Street, US Portsmouth v Tadley Calvea.  
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division: Hamble Club v Colden Common, Hedge End Rangers v Winchester Castle, Infinity v Fleetlands, Liphook v Bush Hill, Liss Athletic v Otterbourne, Paulsgrove v Clanfield, QK Southampton v Baffins Milton Rovers, Stockbridge v Headley Utd.  
Division One: Broughton v Andover Lions, Lyndhurst v AFC Petersfield, Netley Central v Hayling Utd, Sway v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Upham v Burridge AFC.  
Combination East: AFC Petersfield v Liss, Clanfield v Liphook, Fleetlands v Headley.  
Combination West: Bush Hill v Infinity, Otterbourne v Hedge End Rangers, Overton v QK Southampton, Winchester Castle v Hamble Club.  
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE  
Premier Division: AFC Totton v Sholing, Ringwood v AFC Portchester.  
Division One: Downton v AFC Stoneham.  
John Stimpson Memorial Shield, league phase: Hythe & Dibden v Totton & Eling, Laverstock & Ford v Bashley, Petersfield Town v Alton, Tadley Calvea v Alresford Town, Wimborne Town v Romsey Town.

# Piam Brown Ward benefiting from Totton black tie event

Dinner raised a huge sum of £3k for two causes

**POORLY children and young footballers were the beneficiaries of this summer's successful black tie dinner at AFC Totton.**

Organised by Joe Maxwell, head of AFC Totton In The Community and director of the Zuko Sports coaching company, the proceeds of the charity event were split between two good causes, *writes Wendy Gee*.

The charity beneficiary was The Piam Brown Ward at Southampton General Hospital while the other half of the money will be used to buy new equipment for AFC Totton's Academy & Development section.

The evening, attended by 100 people, raised a tidy £3,000.

There were 80 raffle prizes and 20 auction lots, including signed Alan Shearer and Southampton Football Club shirts.

Maxwell, who proudly handed over a £1,600 cheque to the Piam Brown children's cancer ward, said: "It was a truly amazing night.

"We raised a massive amount of money, bigger than we had expected, for two great causes. I'd like to thank everybody who donated and came along.

"We would like to do more events like this as it is benefitting our local community in two different ways.

"The Piam Brown Ward is an incredible ward and I have met such lovely people there. We at AFC Totton are very proud to be helping such a good cause.

"It was amazing for Alan Shearer to help us out as well with some signed stuff."

The fact that AFC Totton's young footballers were also among the night's big winners is a source of great pride to Maxwell.

"We have a project here and we would like to give kids the best opportunity to develop their football," he explained. "We started AFC Totton In



Joe Maxwell hands over a cheque for £1,600 to The Piam Brown Ward

The Community in October 2014 and to get where we are now is incredible.

"It's getting better the more time goes on. We have seen a lot of talented players come down and we have a good set of coaches.

"We are providing many (football-based) holiday camps and birthday

parties as well as starting our new Academy & Development teams.

"To be able to provide the children with a good set of equipment is fantastic."

Totton are still looking for more players, aged under-8, under-9 and under-10, to join their Academy & De-

velopment set-up.

The youngsters train at the Testwood Stadium in Salisbury Road between 5.30pm and 6.30pm every Thursday.

For more information contact Joe Maxwell on 07546 495587 or email [info@zukosports.co.uk](mailto:info@zukosports.co.uk).



**SAINTS 1 (Rodriguez 56) MIDTJYLLAND 1 (Sparv 45)**

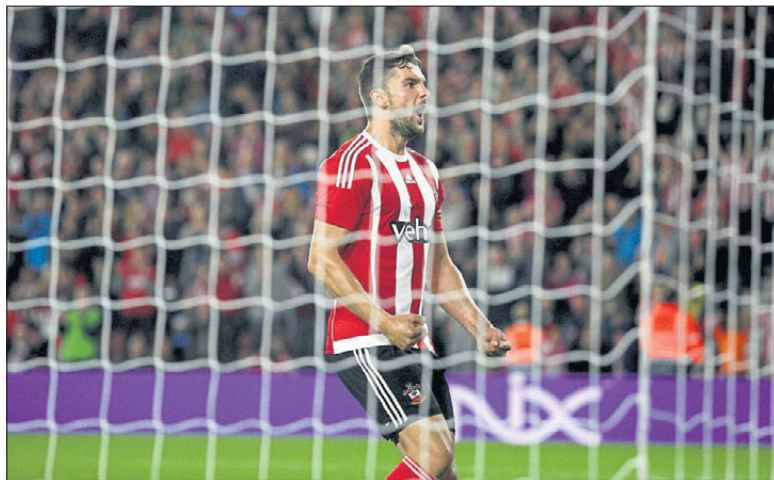
# Home draw is setback for European dreams



Graziano Pelle challenges for the ball with Tim Sparv during Thursday night's game at St Mary's



Jay Rodriguez scores Southampton's equaliser from the penalty spot



Jay Rodriguez celebrates after drawing Saints level



Shane Long receives treatment after taking a knock

**SOUTHAMPTON will travel to Denmark knowing that they will have to score in order to reach the group stages of the Europa League.**

Tim Sparv, a graduate of the Saints academy, scored a crucial away goal for Danish champions Midtjylland at

St Mary's on Thursday.

The midfielder struck just before half-time, drilling a low shot beyond Saints goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg from 25 yards to give the visitors a shock lead.

Steven Caulker thought he had levelled early in the second half, but his header was ruled out for a foul.

The hosts did find an equal-

iser on 56 minutes, Jay Rodriguez firing home from the penalty spot after he had been fouled in the area.

James Ward-Prowse and Matt Targett both went close to giving Saints an advantage going into the second leg, but the result means that Ronald Koeman's men face a nervous night in Denmark this Thursday.

**See Monday's Echo for comprehensive coverage of Saints' trip to Watford**





Ronald Koeman was still on crutches during the Saints v Midtjylland Europa League game.



Shane Long and ex-Saint Tim Sparv battle for the ball during Southampton's 1-1 Europa League draw with FC Midtjylland, at St Mary's Stadium.



Saints celebrate Steven Caulker finding the net, only for the goal to be disallowed by the referee for a foul on a Midtjylland defender.



Saints fans soak up the atmosphere before Southampton's Europa League play-off match against Danish champions FC Midtjylland, at St Mary's Stadium. Photos by Chris Moorhouse.



Jose Fonte defending for Southampton in the Europa League play-off match against Danish champions FC Midtjylland.

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# SAINTS 1(Rodriguez 56) MIDTJYLLAND 1 (Sparv 45)



Saints striker Shane Long goes down under pressure to win a free-kick for his side



Matt Targett gets a Saints attack under way



Maya Yoshida heads at the Midtjylland goal



Three Southampton supporters pose for the camera ahead of the game

**See Monday's Echo for comprehensive coverage of Saints' trip to Watford**





Maya Yoshida applauds the Southampton supporters after the final whistle



Jay Rodriguez competes for the ball



Sadio Mane, who is reported to be a transfer target for Manchester United, gets a shot away against Midtjylland



The Saints team line up for a pre-match photo



Southampton supporters with a souvenir scarf before Saints' Europa League tie against Midtjylland

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# SAINTS 1(Rodriguez 56) MIDTJYLLAND 1 (Sparv 45)



Saints striker Graziano Pelle holds his head in his hands



Saints goalscorer Jay Rodriguez plays a pass



Matt Le Tissier was at St Mary's to see Southampton take on Midtjylland



Saints new-boy Oriol Romeu in action against Midtjylland

**See Monday's Echo for comprehensive coverage of Saints' trip to Watford**





Southampton defender Steven Caulker competes for a high ball



Jose Fonte rises highest to make a header



Maya Yoshida on the ball for Southampton



A group of young Southampton fans before Thursday night's game



Graziano Pelle is left cursing his luck as a chance goes begging

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# SAINTS 1(Rodriguez 56) MIDTJYLLAND 1 (Sparv 45)



Saints fans pose for a picture outside St Mary's



These young Southampton fans took advantage of the school holidays by going to watch a midweek game at St Mary's



A Saints-supporting couple gear up for kick-off



Saints fans outside St Mary's ahead of the club's European tie against Midtjylland

**See Monday's Echo for comprehensive coverage of Saints' trip to Watford**





Midtjylland supporters prepare for kick-off



A Midtjylland fan in good spirits ahead of the game



Two fans looking forward to a good night of entertainment at St Mary's



Midtjylland fans in party mood ahead of their side's game against Southampton at St Mary's



A group of Midtjylland fans at St Mary's



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# HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



Adam Wheater hits out during his 111 against Lancashire at The Ageas Bowl on Monday night (Pic by Dave Vokes/ LMI Photography)

## Threeeasy for Adam

### ADAM Wheater is loving his new role at No 3.

The wicketkeeper-batsman has been in his best limited-overs form for Hampshire since being promoted to first wicket down in the Royal London One-Day Cup and the T20 Blast, writes *Simon Walter*.

After making the two highest T20 scores of his career in his first three games in the role - 78 and 51 in crucial group wins at home to Surrey and against Sussex at Hove - Wheater registered his second 50-over hundred of in eight knocks at No.3, against Lancashire on Monday night.

He was unfortunate that, like his other 50-over ton it came in a losing cause.

But it is surely only a matter of time before he makes his first-match-winning white-ball ton.

Having taken on the role in 50-over cricket towards the end of a disappointing campaign last year, it took him only three games to show what he was capable of with a 97-ball 135 against his former Essex teammates at Chelmsford last August.

His 114-ball 111 on Monday night (11 fours, one six) could not prevent Hampshire from sliding to a 29-run defeat.

But it gave more Hampshire fans the chance to show their appreciation towards a player who came in for unfair criticism when he replaced Michael Bates in the side.

"I've had a couple of decent knocks at three and enjoy it there. I was always talking to Chalks (director of cricket Giles White) about it and with



Adam Wheater acknowledges the applause at the Ageas Bowl (LMI Photography)

Maxi and Owais in and out of the [respective] sides last year and this the spot came up.

"I put my hand up for it and fortunately it's worked out all right. There's more responsibility at three but more time to bat.

"It's harder to get as many runs lower down but Daws (Liam Daw-

son) played an unbelievable knock [against Lancashire], his 52 was just as crucial on a slow wicket."

Hampshire lost by just five runs after Wheater's ton at Chelmsford last August and the 29-run defeat against Lancashire meant the RLODC quarter-final places had to be decided by the final round of group games.

As it turned out, Hampshire's game against Notts at Trent Bridge was rained off but they still went through as Lancashire, the only side that could deny them, saw their game at home to Glamorgan suffer the same fate.

Hampshire will play Gloucestershire in the last eight but will have to play better than they did against Lancashire.

"302 was a lot to get," admitted Wheater. "[Alviro] Peterson and [Ashwell] Prince showed their class.

"They read the wicket well and the cameo from [Alex] Davies at the end (27no from 15 balls) took the game away from us.

"We were in with a sniff but it didn't work out. Getting in on that wicket was very hard work, it was a little slow and there was inconsistent spin."

Wheater benefited from missed stumpings by opposite number Davies on 35 and 50.

"I reckon I was the only bloke who felt sorry for him!" he said. "The first one was tough, he wouldn't have seen it, but would have been disappointed with the second one.

"But I can't say anything because I'm not far from one myself!"

Wheater has also been in excellent LV County Championship form of late, averaging 41 since the beginning of June having scored his first division one century (another 111) and three fifties.

"I've enjoyed last six weeks," he said. "When you work hard and get no runs you ask what's the point but it seems to be paying off."

## Gloves are off...

ADAM Wheater completed a wicketkeeping first before hitting his 111 against Lancashire at The Ageas Bowl.

With Alex Davies attempting ramp shots over Wheater's head against Chris Wood in Lancashire's final over, the Hampshire wicketkeeper decided to field as a backstop.

He is not the first wicketkeeper to do so and is in good company as MS Dhoni has adopted the ploy to counteract the shot first used by Tillakaratne Dilshan.

But before Wheater did so umpires Martin Bodenham and Mike Burns insisted that he discard his wicketkeeping gear.

Wheater explained: "If you take gloves and pads off you can field where you like. It's down to the umpires' discretion as to how far you can be behind the stumps with your pads on.

"It was a definite first for me. I don't reckon it works but if I'd taken a catch it would have been genius!"

Hampshire have a week to decide whether they will use the same tactic against Lancashire in their T20 Blast semi-final at Edgbaston next Saturday.



Adam Wheater (LMI)

## Under-17s bag title

HAMPSHIRE pulled off an astonishing 22-run victory over Warwickshire to win the prestigious ECB Under-17 County Championship at Arundel Castle, writes Mike Vimpany.

They recovered from 127-6 on a rain-curtailed opening day to post 276-9, with Harry Hovey (69) and Harry Came (56) sharing a century partnership.

Warwickshire were back in charge at 136-1 but Jake Goodwin (2-39) bowled Banks three short of his century, Warwickshire wobbled, losing three quick wickets to slip to 204-5.

Warwickshire reached 243-5 but when spinner Felix Organ (2-60) triggered a collapse.

Amid a plethora of run-outs, Warwickshire lost their last five wickets for 12 runs and collapsed to 254 all out.



## Hampshire Cricket's annual former players' lunch

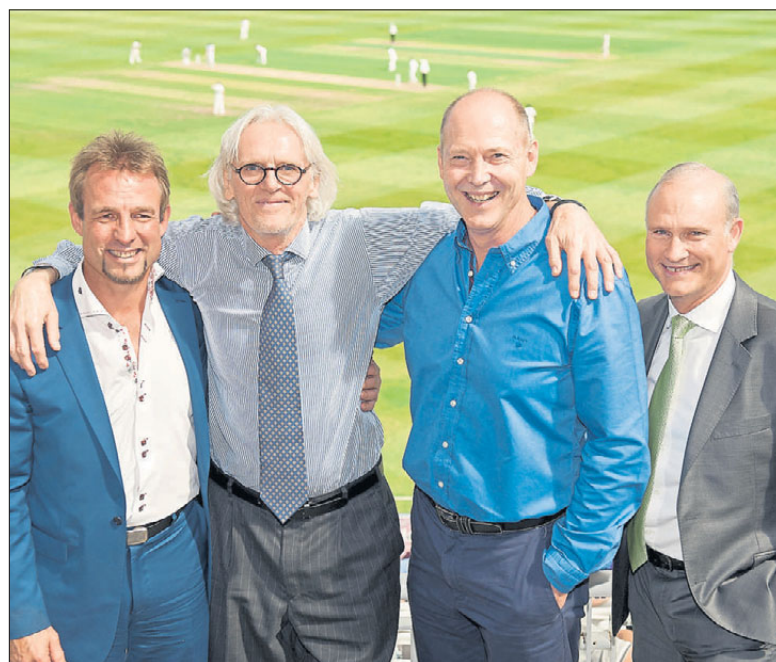
# Hampshire legends reunited at The Bowl



Denis Baldry (left), Alan Wassell (centre) and Brian Robbins, flanked by Richard Lewis and Bob Herman. Pic by Dave Vokes/ LMI Photography



David Turner (Pic by Dave Vokes/ LMI Photography)



Adrian Aymes, John Rice, Jon Hardy and Rob Savage (Pic by Dave Vokes/LMI Photography)



From left to right: Keith Stevenson, Bob Stephenson, and Trevor Jesty

**THERE was a bumper turn out for the former players' annual lunch at The Ageas Bowl.**

Several members of the 1961 Championship-winning team were there including Mike Barnard, 93 year-old former wicket-keeper Leo Harrison (1939-

66), Malcolm Heath (1952-62), batsman Denis Baldry (1959-63) and slow left-arm-er Alan Wassell (1957-66).

There were also several members of the 1973 Championship-winning side present in David Turner (1966-89), opening bowler Bob Herman (1972-77), wicketkeeper Bob Stephenson (1969-80), former England

all-rounder Trevor Jesty (1966-84), Andy Murtagh (1971-77) and Richard Lewis (1967-76).

Others in attendance included medium pacer Keith Stevenson (1978-83), opening bowler Steven Andrew (1984-89), Brian Robbins (1958), John Rice (1971-82), Jon Hardy (1983-85) and Adie Aymes (1987-2002).

**Don't miss next week's Sports Pink for all the action from Hants' T20 semi-final**

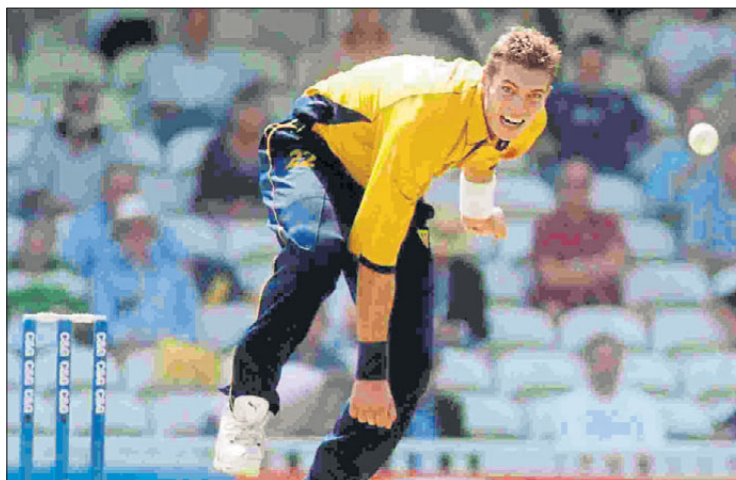


## Hampshire Cricket nostalgia special

# Homegrown Tremlett calls time on career



Chris Tremlett in County Championship action against Durham at The Rose Bowl



Chris Tremlett in action against Surrey during the C&G Trophy quarter-finals at The Oval in 2005. Hampshire chased down a record 359 and went on to win the final at Lord's



Hants celebrate Tremlett's run out of Sussex's Murray Goodwin in the 2009 Lord's final win

**HOMEGROWN** former Hampshire and England bowler Chris Tremlett has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

The 33-year-old, who took 459 wickets in a 15-year first-class career - including 264 at 28 for Hampshire

- cited back trouble as one of the reasons.

Southampton-born Tremlett, who Shane Warne once described as the nicest fast bowler he had known, will be remembered for his fearless performances during the successful Ashes series of 2010-11.

He took 53 Test wickets - at 27 apiece - in 12 appear-

ances from 2007-13 and recorded his best figures (6-48) during The Ageas Bowl's Test debut, against Sri Lanka four years ago.

When Tremlett played the first of his 15 one-day internationals, against Bangladesh in 2005, he became the first Hampshire-born Hampshire player to play for England in this country.

**See Thursday's Daily Echo for all the action from Hants' 50-over quarter-final**



SEPL t20 Plate final, Totton & Eling CC, August 16th

# Jake fires Ventnor to SEPL t20 Plate victory



Ventnor CC's victorious T20 Plate final-winning team



Ventnor opener Henry Bartlett in full flow



Six hitter Jake George hit five maximums in his Man of the Match 69



Mark Antony Eyesle is caught by Ville's Andy Reynolds – off his son Archie's bowling !

**It's been quite a last month for Ventnor, who have won their last three games to pull clear of the Southern Electric Premier Division relegation zone – and now won the Plate t20 knockout**

## competition.

Narrowly beaten by Basingstoke & North Hants in the t20 proper, they enjoyed a comfortable seven-wicket win over faltering Premier 3 promotion candidates Waterlooville at Totton & Eling's Southern Gardens, writes Mike Vimpany.

Waterlooville did well enough with the bat, Tim

Jackson (37) and Alex Shephard (23) top scoring in their 158-6.

But their bowling did not trouble Ventnor. Opener Henry Bartlett hit six fours and two sixes in his 41 after taking 2-28 and man-of-the-match Jake George (69 not out) also feasted on anything loose.

● SET20 final pages 34-35

**See Tuesday and Wednesday's Daily Echo for Mike Vimpany's club cricket round-up**



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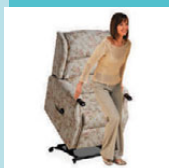
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## SOUTHERN ELECTRIC T20 CUP FINAL, AGEAS BOWL

# Jack hits winning six off last ball of T20 final



South Wilts celebrate with the T20 trophy at the Ageas Bowl after Monday night's triumph (Picture by Dave Vokes/LMI Photography)



Jack Mynott pushes on to the off side (Picture by Dave Vokes/ LMI Photography)



Jack Mynott celebrates after hitting a six off the final ball to win the game (Picture by Dave Vokes/LMI Photography)



Steve Warner (3-14) received the man-of-the-match award from Hants groundman Nigel Gray

**JACK Mynott hit a six off the last ball to give South Wilts a thrilling five-wicket win over Havant in a breath-taking Southern Electric twenty20 Cup final.**

Having required 11 off the final over, South Wilts finally needed three runs off the last ball to overhaul

Havant's 156-6, *writes Mike Vimpany.*

Mynott couldn't have played the shot better, lifting the ball over the long-on boundary at the Hotel End... as Havant bowler Ben Walker sank to his knees.

He said: "Before Ben ran in I was thinking to myself 'imagine what it would be like to win the game for the

boys now'.

"I decided that, if Ben bowls me the quicker one, it could well go through my stumps, but I think he tried to take the pace of the ball, which was aimed at middle and leg - and right in the slot. I thought it had only gone for two! Next thing I knew I was buried under a pile of sweaty bodies!"

**Don't miss Mike Vimpany's SEPL round-up in Tuesday's Daily Echo**





Ryan Duffield bowling (Picture by Rob Franklin)



Man-of-the-match Steve Warner in action (Picture by Rob Franklin)



Havant's Ben Walker appeals for a wicket (Picture by Dave Vokes/LMI Photography)



Rob Gibson top scored for Havant with 33, which included a six and five fours (Picture by Dave Vokes/LMI Photography)





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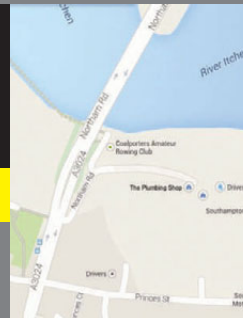
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# OFFSIDE CONTROVERSY: Officials' error



Christian Benteke scored for Liverpool in their 1-0 win over Bournemouth - but the goal should have been chalked off for offside.

## League admit ref's mistake

**CHRISTIAN Benteke's controversial winner for Liverpool against Bournemouth on Monday should not have stood, the Premier League has acknowledged.**

Benteke's close-range goal at Anfield was allowed to stand by referee Craig Pawson despite team-mate Philippe Coutinho having been stood in an offside position and attempting to play the ball.

The decision was widely criticised after changes to the interpretation of the offside rule this summer and the Premier League, in conjunction with referees' body PGMOL, has clarified the situation, accepting an error was made.

A statement read: "The Premier League has this week written to its clubs to clarify the new interpretation of the offside law decided by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) this summer.

"Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) issued this guidance in order to clear up any misunderstandings that arose following the goal awarded to Liverpool in their Monday night match against AFC Bournemouth.

"The Premier League does not generally comment on decisions made by match officials. However, given the recent change to the interpretation of the offside law and the fact that it was made close to the start of the season, the league felt it was appropriate, in this instance, to publish in order to inform fans and other stake-



Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe saw his side concede a goal against Liverpool that should have been ruled out.

holders."

In the incident in question, Benteke turned in a deep cross from Jordan Henderson at the far post after the ball flew past an offside Coutinho.

Under the new guidance, Coutinho did not need to have touched the ball to have been considered interfering with play, as he would in the past.

Coutinho only needed to play at the ball while it was close to him and for his action to impact an opponent. In this case that criteria was fulfilled and the law therefore not correctly enforced.

The statement used stills from the match to illustrate the point and underneath it said: "Expected outcome:

Offside offence."

The decision to write to clubs may slightly appease Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe, who said after the game he would like an explanation.

"That is the clearest example of the new rule you will see," Howe said afterwards in his post-match press conference.

## Berghuis inspired by RvP

WATFORD striker Steven Berghuis has revealed that Robin van Persie inspired him to join the Barclays Premier League.

Berghuis, who could line up against Saints at Vicarage Road tomorrow, became one of many summer recruits to the club's ever-growing multi-national squad when he arrived from AZ Alkmaar for £4.6million in July.

Van Persie, the sole survivor of an influential generation of Dutch Premier League footballers that included Dennis Bergkamp, Ruud van Nistelrooy, Arjen Robben and Dirk Kuyt, left Manchester United for Fenerbahce only days earlier but his influence on the 23-year-old winger remains.

"Of course (I'd like to emulate them)," said Berghuis. "I followed Van Persie the most in my youth, Bergkamp a little bit and Van Nistelrooy. I think Van Persie is my favourite of the three. He is left-footed, creative and always tries to show nice things, he's nice to watch."

"I like to play with my left (foot) from the right, and try to create chances. Always playing forward. I like to play from the right. At AZ (Alkmaar) when I was playing good it was always from there."

Nathan Ake, who has joined Watford on loan from Chelsea, is another Dutchman in the Hornets' squad. While at present there are concerns about the limited opportunities available to young Premier League footballers, Berghuis felt he had to seize the opportunity to move to England because of a belief that Dutch football is in decline.

"I spoke with (QPR's) Leroy Fer (about the Premier League)," he said. "I spoke with (Middlesbrough's) Dwight Tiendalli also. They all told me I have to (join the Premier League) because it is an amazing competition. And also with my age I think I had to do it. In Holland the level is going down and the clubs in other countries don't look a lot at Holland anymore because the level is going down, I think."



Watford's Steven Berghuis



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